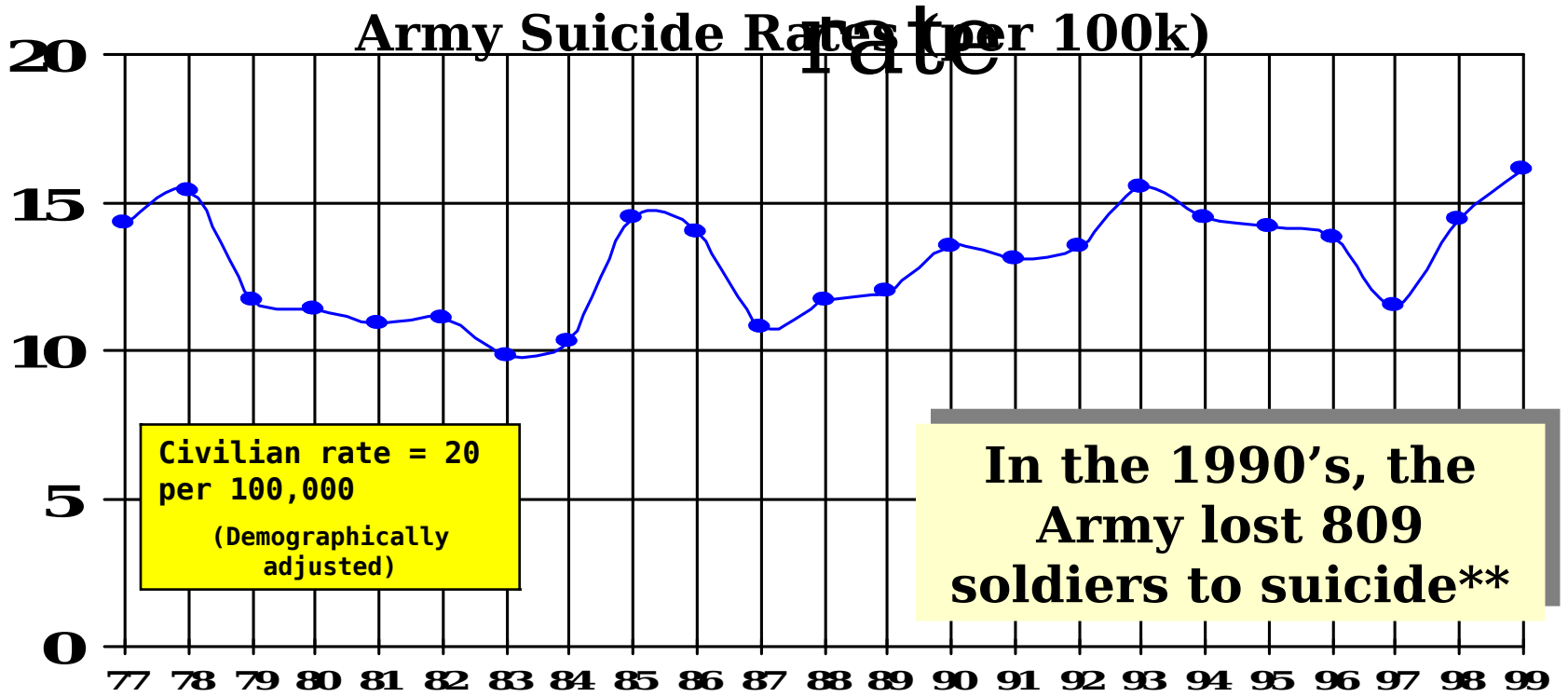
Suicide in the U.S. vs. the Army

- Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for adolescents & young adults between 15 and 24 years of age
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for our soldiers - exceeded only by MVAs
- Approx. a battalion's worth of soldiers have died from suicide in the last decade

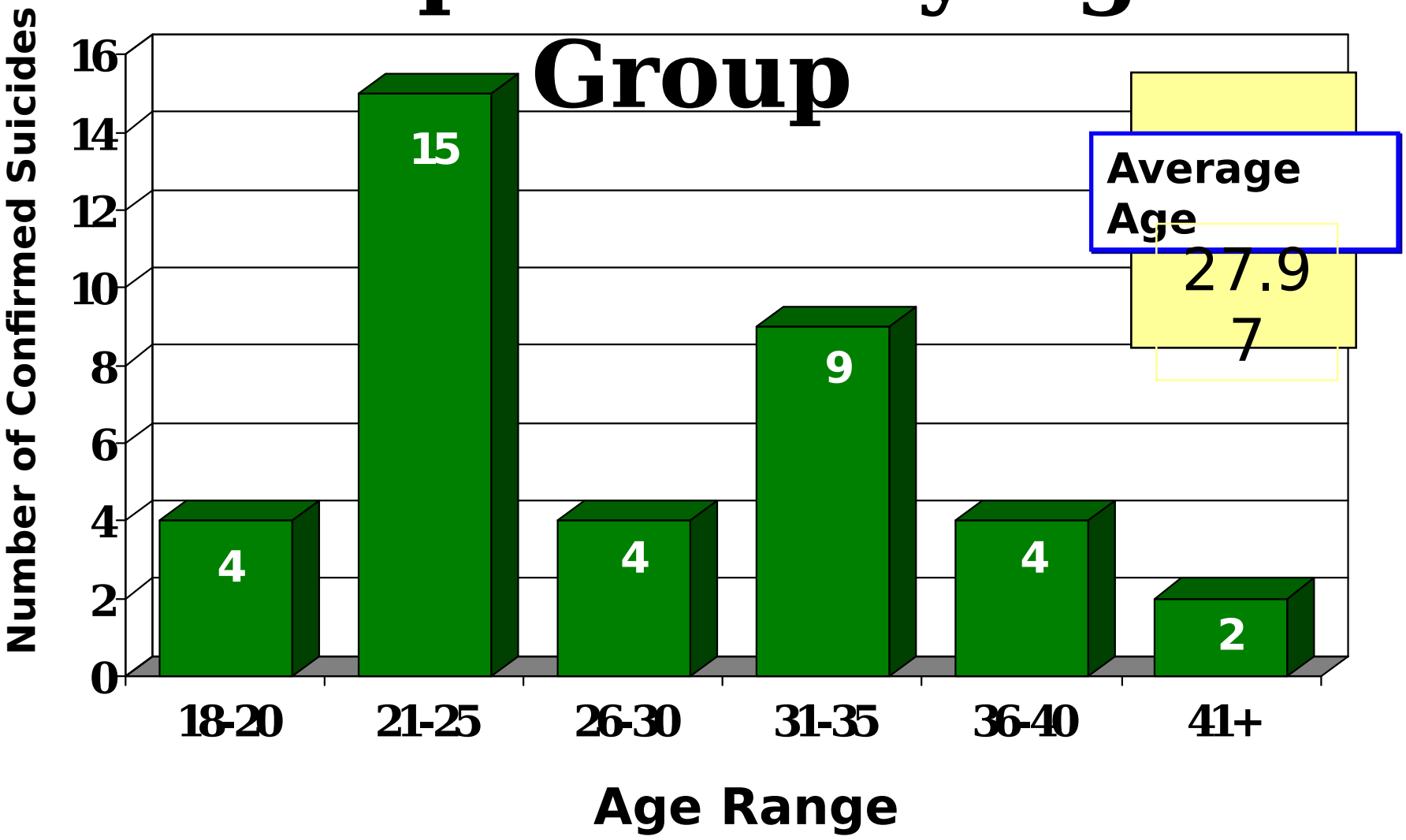
Our Purpose to reduce the rate


Army Suicide Rates (per 100k)
20
15
10
5
0
77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99
Civilian rate = 20 per 100,000
(Demographically adjusted)
In the 1990's, the Army lost 809 soldiers to suicide**

Since our current program went into affect in 1987, we have failed to make a significant impact on our suicide rates, in fact, in CY 99, our rates have actually increased and are at a 22 year high*. The time has come for a new campaign plan directing a "full court press" on suicide prevention to minimize such unnecessary loss of life.

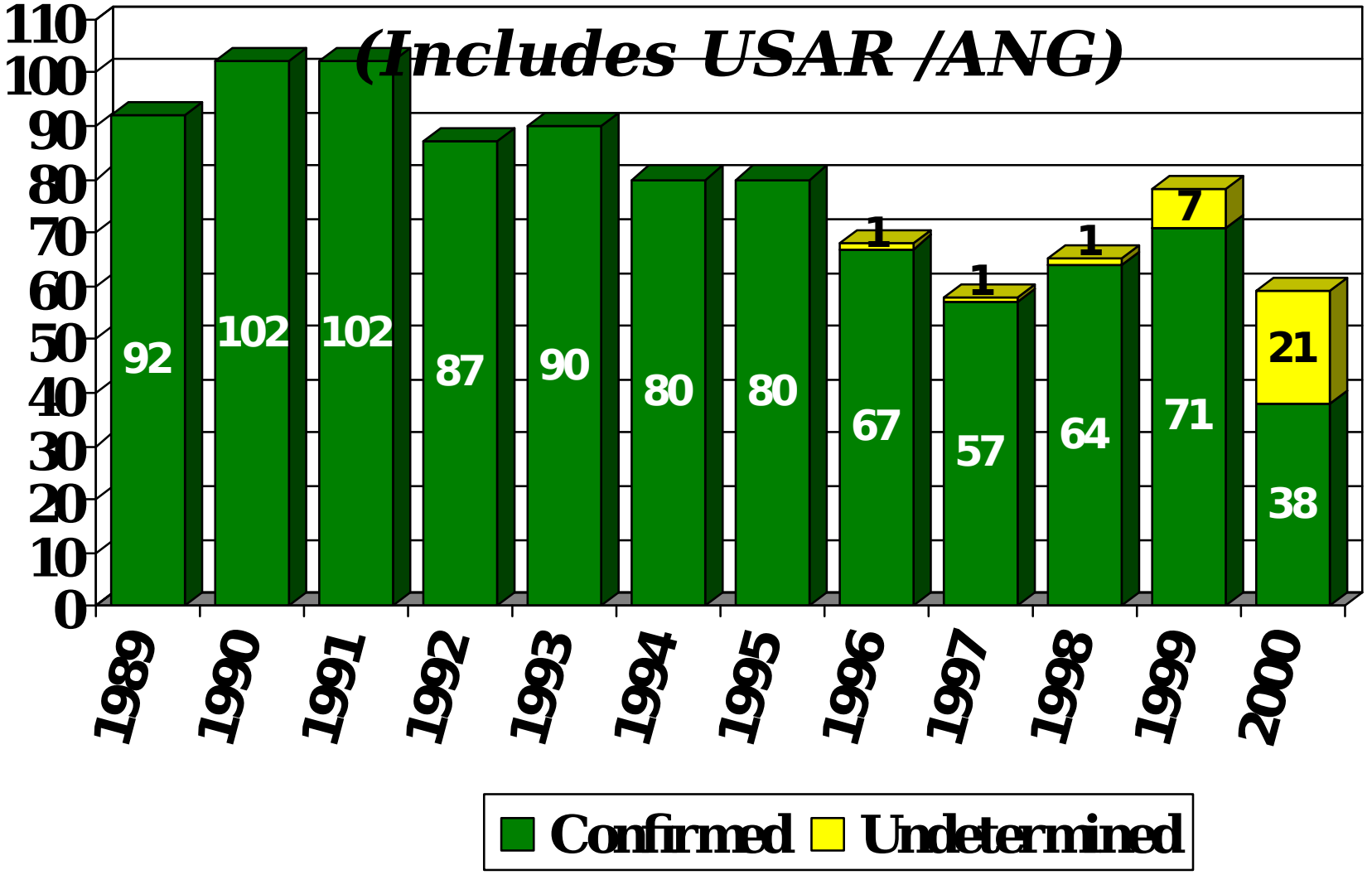
** Figures based on Active Duty RA, ANG, & USAR * * Data provided by DA Casualty Operations Center*

Comparison By Age Group

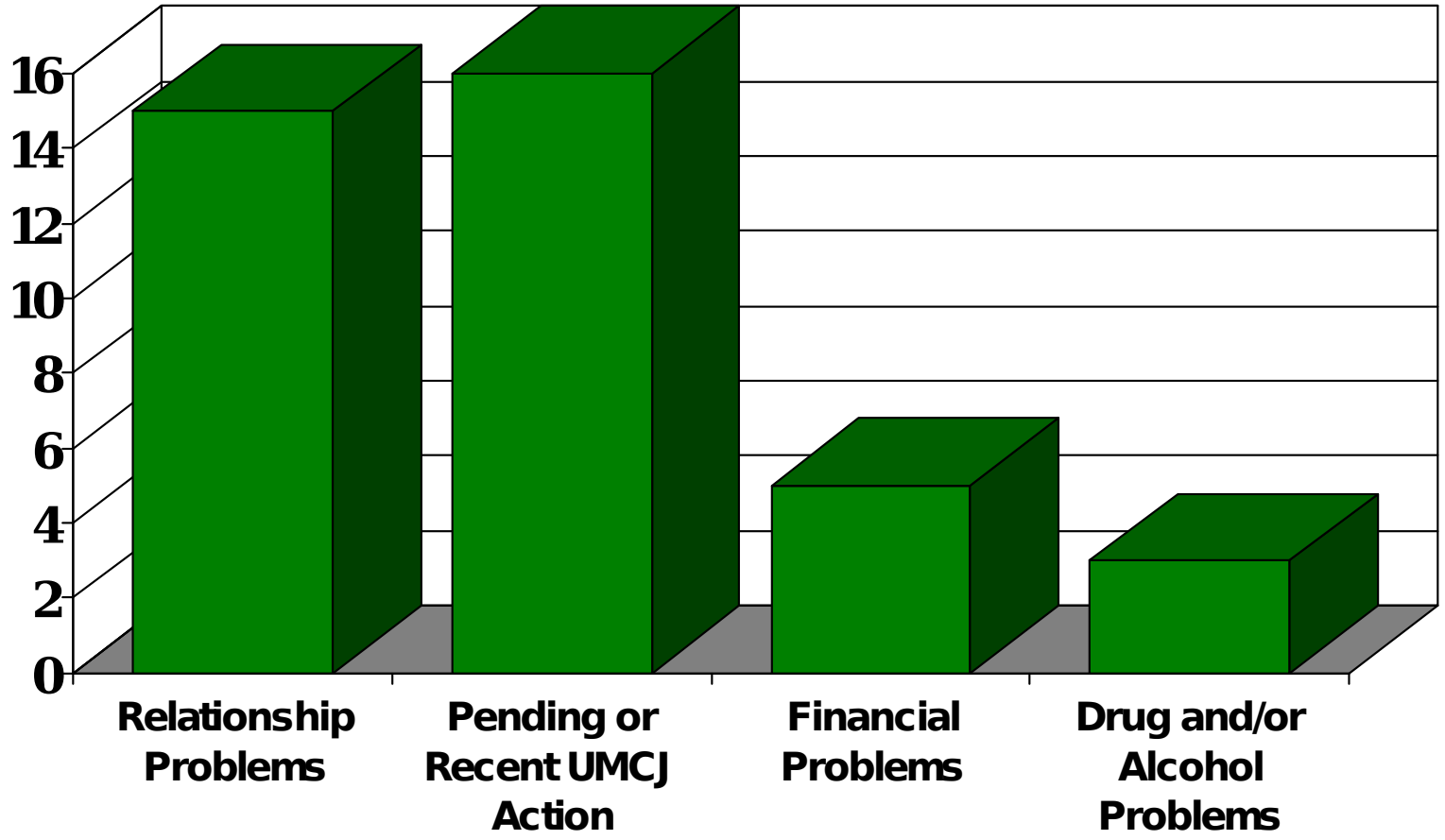


CY Army Active Duty Suicides

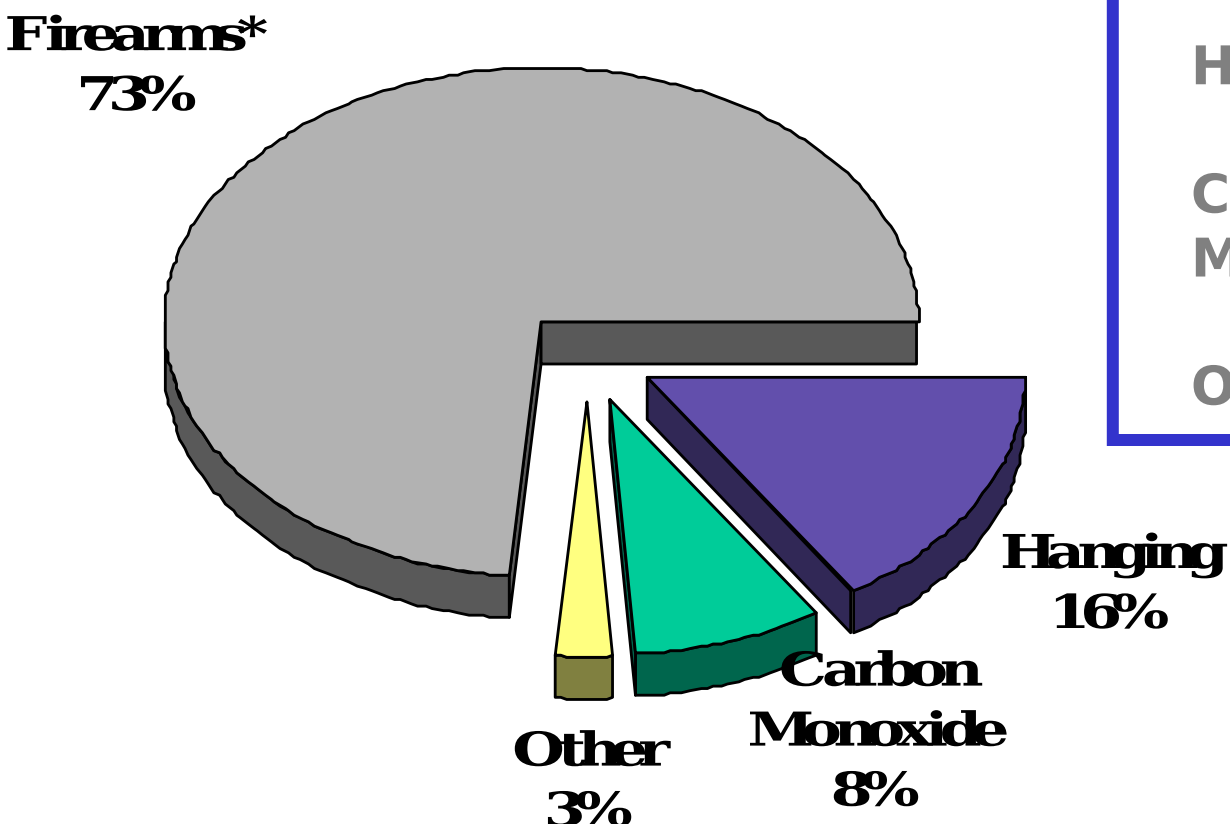
(Includes USAR /ANG)



Problems that correlate



Suicide Method



Firearms - 28

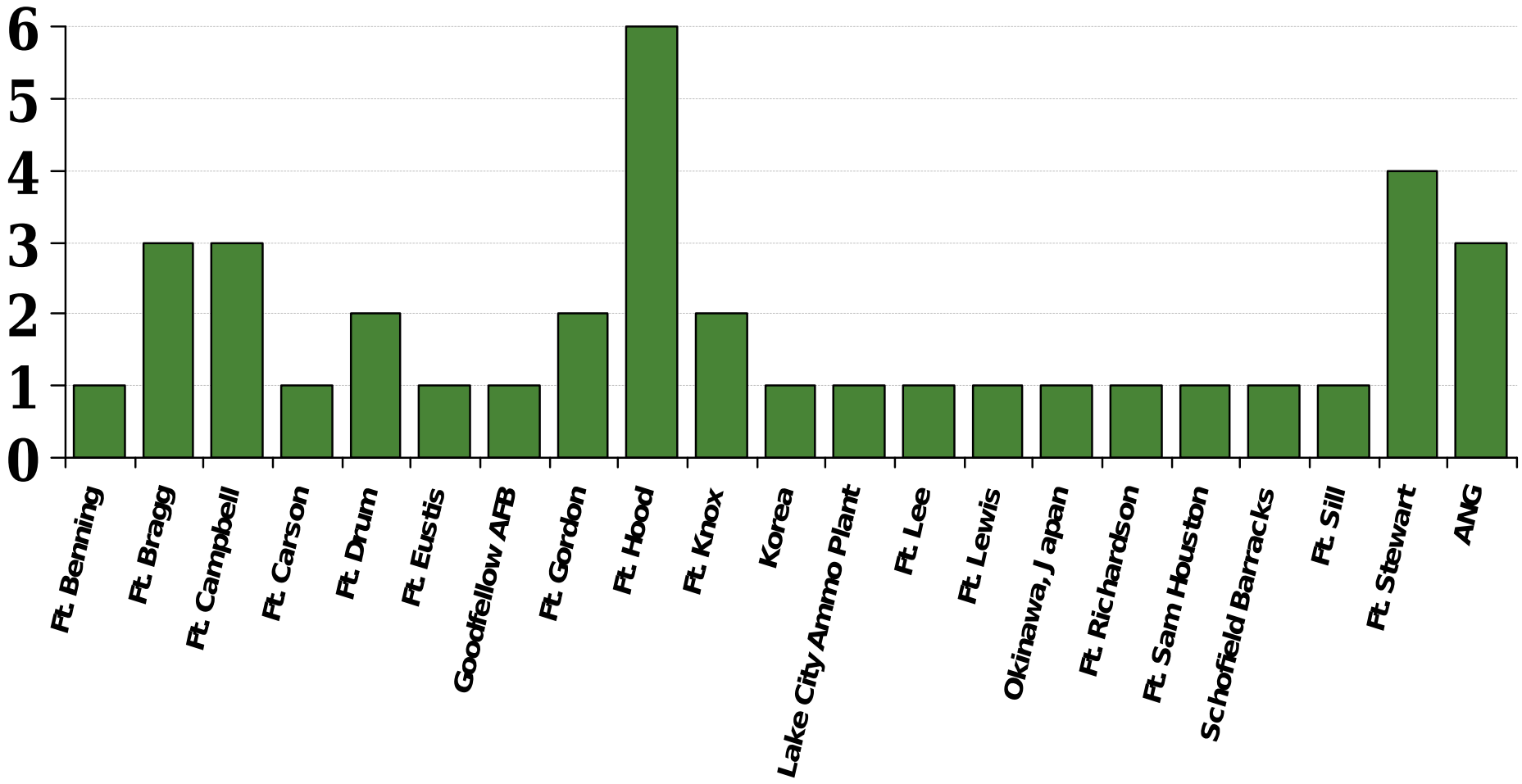
Hanging - 6

Carbon Monoxide - 3

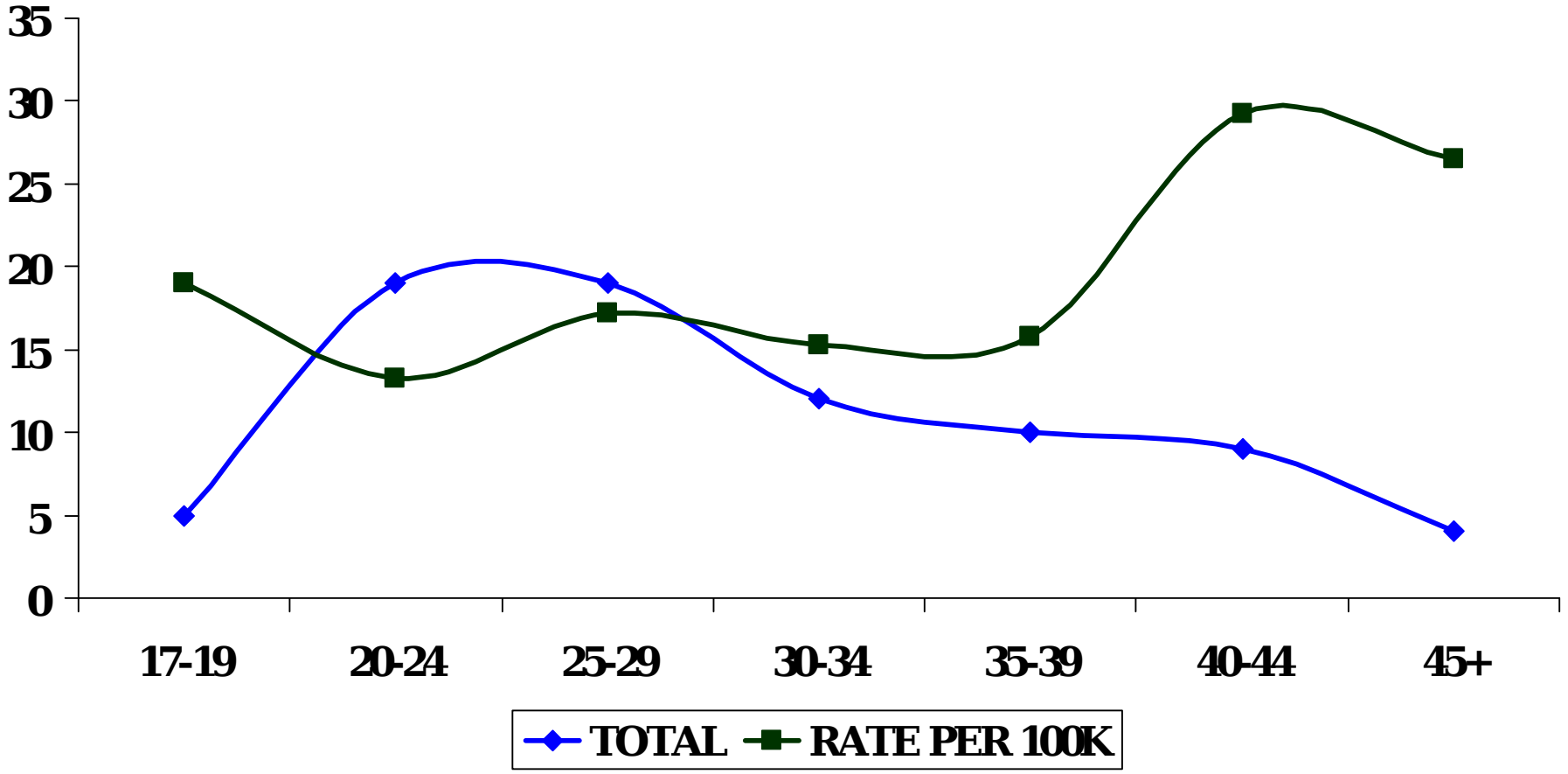
Other - 1

availability of lethal methods increases suicide completion rate

CY 00 Confirmed Suicides (Post Assignment)

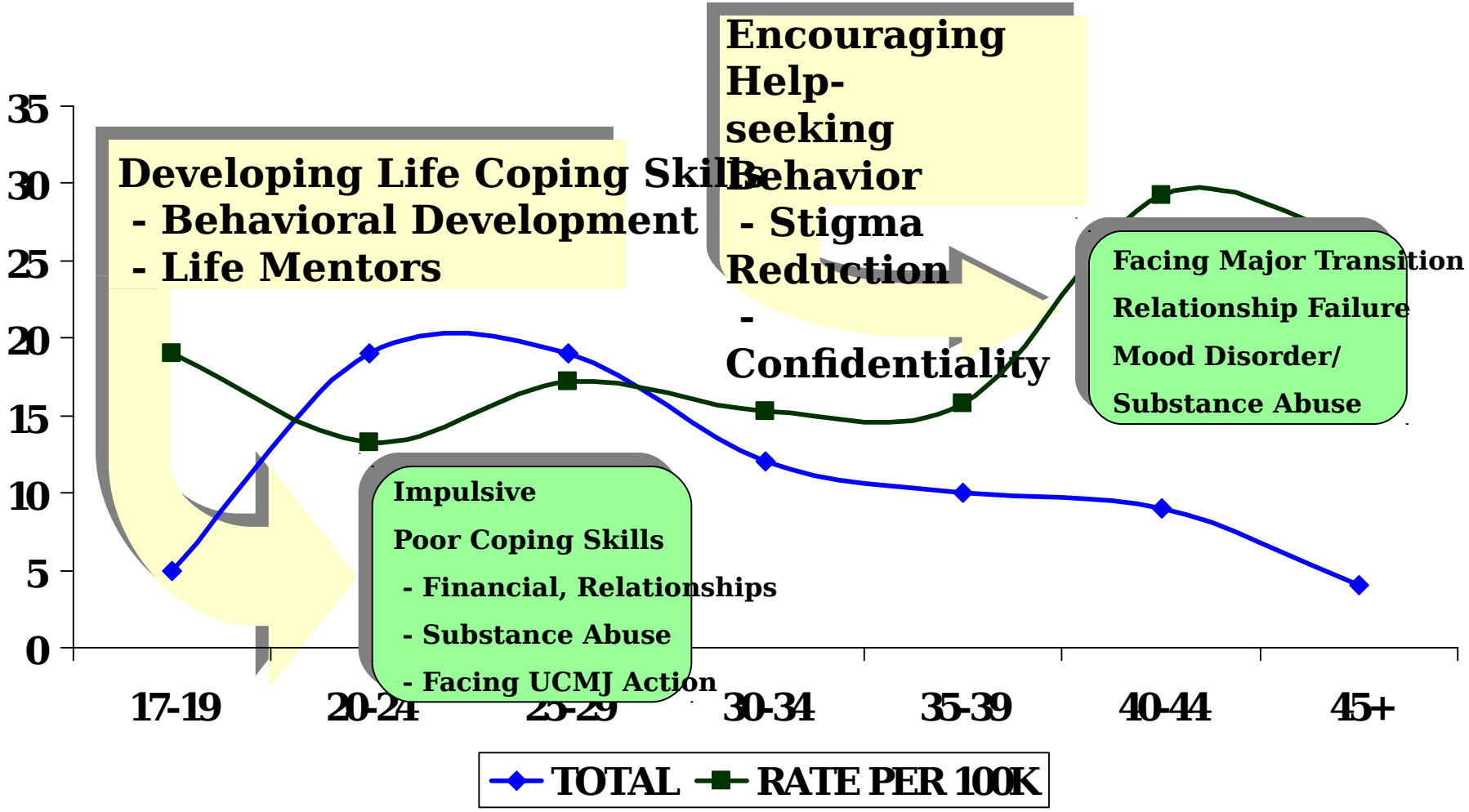


Suicide Age/Rate Distribution



** numbers based upon U.S. Army Casualty Reports confirmed suicides for active duty RA, ANG, USAR for CY 99*

“Bimodal” Distribution



** numbers based upon U.S. Army Casualty Reports confirmed suicides for active duty RA, ANG, USAR for CY 99*